

HUAC Aide Calls Hearings a Success *Post 12/21/66*

Vietnam War Protesters Defiant as Inquiry Ends

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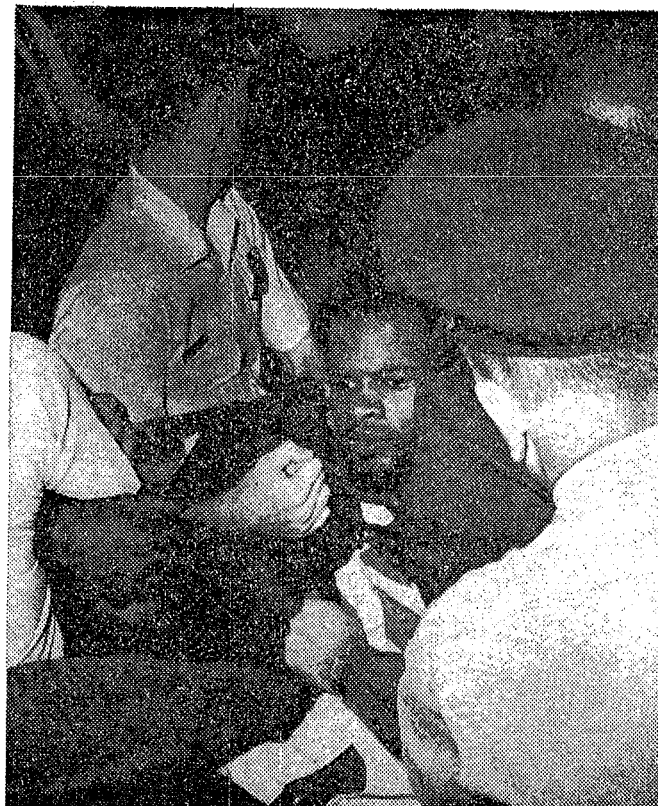
With a final, raucous gesture of defiance, campus radicals engaged in the anti-war movement departed from the Capitol yesterday to the obvious relief of a House Un-American Activities subcommittee.

The grace note to nearly a week of chaos in the subcommittee chamber was supplied by 22-year-old Steven Cherkoss of Berkeley, Calif., the last witness. He stood before the middle-aged Congressmen of HUAC, wearing sun glasses, with the middle finger of his right hand extended in a barracks-room sign of obscenity.

His studied irreverence and other events of the day produced an atmosphere more common to juvenile court than to Congress.

Cherkoss and a compatriot, Steven Hamilton, who is also 22 and is also from Berkeley, called the subcommittee members "yellow-bellied, racist cowards." Rep. Joe Pool (D-Tex.), chairman of the panel, listened stolidly and made no

See HUAC, A6, Col. 6



Staff Photos by Ken Fell

ON THEIR WAY OUT—Steven Cherkoss, a witness at yesterday's House Un-American Activities subcommittee

hearing, left, is led from the hearing room by a marshal. At right, a spectator at the meeting is forcibly removed.

reply, even when Hamilton referred to him as "Tex."

When they finished their long, prepared statements, they were excused by Pool but refused to leave the witness chair. He ordered Federal marshals to lead them out of the room, provoking a demonstration in the audience. Before the morning had ended, 15 persons were ejected from the Caucus Room in the Cannon Office Building, bringing to nearly 60 the number hauled out since the hearings began Tuesday. Many of them were jailed.

In terms of new revelations about campus protests against the Vietnamese war, the subcommittee's inquiry developed little. Its files already contained detailed accounts of the activities and tactics of such protest groups as the May 2d Movement, the Vietnam Medical Aid Committees and the Progressive Labor Party.

Furthermore, the hostility and filibustering tactics of most of the student witnesses produced for the subcommittee more noise and frustration than enlightenment. Only six of the 12 young radicals under subpoena ever got to the witness chair.

But after the last student had been led away yesterday, Pool described the inquiry as a success.

"These hearings," he said, "have fully revealed the activity of groups that should be covered by proposed legislation we are considering (to outlaw material aid to the Vietcong and to outlaw student efforts to stop the movement of troop trains).

"... The key leadership (of campus protest groups) is made up of hard-core revolutionary Communists..."

One student who applied that description to himself was Cherkoss: "We are Communists and we are proud of it." He is one of the activists in the Progressive Labor Party, a pro-Peking Communist faction that considers the old-line Communist Party in the United States "Conservative."

His long lecture to the subcommittee was studded with assertions that "the U.S. Government is following the path of Adolf Hitler," that "this committee and this government has outlived its

day... its days are numbered demolished by the people."

Did he advocate the government's violent overthrow, Pool asked.

"No ruling class," Cherkoss replied, a cigarette dangling from the corner of his mouth, "has surrendered power voluntarily... The people will use any means necessary."

In reply to another question, he baited the chairman:

"Repeat that question. I can't understand that racist Southern accent."

Cherkoss' own accent has a blend of Berkeley and Brooklyn.

George Ewart Jr., a tall youth of cerebral appearance, was equally candid. He described the legislation being considered by HUAC as the "cessPool bill" and said "it seems to me Mr. Pool is rather a fool in this matter."

Of course he was a Communist, he said, and believed that the U.S. Government had "outlived its stay."

With these comments in the record, Pool announced that there was no need to hear the remaining witnesses — Jerry Rubin and John W. Smith of California—or to continue the subpoenas of four other witnesses who had either walked out or had been excused.

"The investigative phase of this hearing is now over," Pool said.

From now on, the subcommittee will devote its hearings to comments from Congressmen, lawyers and others on the desirability of the Pool bill. It provides \$20,000 fines and 20-year jail sentences for those who aid "hostile" forces and countries in times of "undeclared war" and for those who interfere in any way with the movement of troops or military supplies.

The first endorsement of the bill was given yesterday morning by a retired Marine general, James D. Hittle, who represented the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He had barely taken his seat when young women in the rear of the room began shouting "Murderer." They were removed by marshals and policemen.

Later in the day Rep. Charles Bennett (D-Fla.) and an Oakland, Calif., prosecutor, Edwin Meese III, endorsed the bill without incident.

Soccer Stamp Is Hit

Reuters

LONDON, Aug. 19 — Four penny (5 cents) postage stamps celebrating England's World Cup soccer victory last month were selling privately for 10 shillings (\$1.40) here today. Post offices throughout the country sold out their supplies Thursday—the first day the stamps went on sale.